Polymer brush-coatings to prevent biomaterials associated infection

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Sometimes I think words are too short, too simple to carry our deepest feelings. I tend to believe that genuine feelings are spread effortlessly and anything which must be said will be understood. All my teachers, family, friends and people who helped me in the way that puts me here today: I thank you all and, I would like you to know that you have my deepest respect and gratefulness which is simply beyond expression for me.

I will use this opportunity to review some great memories shaped during my scientific life which, I realize, is woven into other aspects of my life.

It was a wish of my parents, Forough and Reza, that I become a highly educated person. They devoted their life to their children so sacrificially that leaves no room for me to say that I will return it someday.

Samira, my lovely wife, was the one who convinced me that I should do a PhD. She stood next to me in all joyful and difficult days in the past years. I will not forget that she gave up a full-time study which meant a lot to her and chose for a low-residency study so that she could stay with me in Groningen. She has been the kindest partner one could ever have.

I learnt a lot from all my supervisors in the past four years. I remember the first day I was in Groningen for interview. My first meeting had been arranged with Henk and he started the conversation by asking about my trip and reasons for choosing Groningen etc. He was so friendly that all my nervousness was gone in a minute. Working with such a professional and at the same time understanding scientist manager was a true honour for me. Having a smooth PhD job was made possible with helps and advices from Henny. She always made time if I had a question or needed to discuss something.

I enjoyed working with her in a group to arrange a “labuitje”. Despite the terrible whether that day, it became a memorable “labuitje” for us and our colleagues. I always enjoyed discussing subjects with Willem. His enthusiasm and supporting attitude
towards ideas expressed by a young researcher was spectacular. This was felt even by people who were not directly working with him. My only regret is that he was not present in our lab everyday.

Immigration from a country to another requires a lot of work from arranging the necessary documents to finding your way to live in the new place. It was all very smooth for me only because of kind helps from Ellen, Ina and Wya. When they said they would take care of something, I was sure that it would be done in the best possible way. Kind Ellen and Ina always asked about me and my family’s situation. Wya was very caring too and I remember that she kindly accompanied me and my wife in a trip to Den Haag to arrange the residence documents for us in the first month of our stay in Groningen.

I had very nice officemates in the past four years. I experienced great moments of sharing fun and frustrations together with Marco, Niels and Mihaela. Marco and I took climbing courses in Groningen and we enjoyed it very much. In the last year of our PhD however, we got so busy that we could not continue climbing! Niels and I used to have very long scientific discussions which sometimes took hours. He had a good sense of analysis which helped me learn better. Mihaela moved to our room after Niels left. I wonder if she had a good time as both Marco and I were stressed to finish our job and might have not been in a good mood.

I enjoyed working with Prashant, Adam, Anton and Isabel in two small projects which both led to good results for us. I learnt from all of them and I will look forward to a chance to repeat such collaborations.

I had no bad day in the lab and this was because I had the nicest colleagues around. They all were goodhearted people whom I remember only from nice moments. Eefje was my personal coach in the lab when I started my PhD. She indeed was a good teacher. I will not forget her happy face and her caring character. I had the chance to learn from Joop, Hans and Betsy in different parts of my research.
My sisters, Maryam and Mandana, and my only brother Ali supported me kindly whenever I needed. They have a big share in my good memories. It is the same for my parents- and my brother-in-law; Homa, Ali and Reza. I am grateful for all the generous support they provided for me when I was busy with the application and immigration procedures.

I got to know a few Iranians in Groningen. Hanging out with them gave me a taste of my homeland which I missed very much. Sara and I were introduced to each other in a funny way. She became a good friend of mine later on and we have had many good days together with our other friends.

I enjoyed living in the Netherlands. I discovered several nice things about Dutch lifestyle. Among those I would like to mention the great cycling culture, the simplicity in all aspects of life, the respectful culture of adaptation, the openness towards different opinions and the preservation of historic city architecture. During my stay I was bothered by nothing other than weather.